**Institutional Sift**

**Studentship Proposal Form**

October 2023 Intake

*This form is provided for all ARIES hosting partners to use in institutional sifts of studentship proposals. This form, along with the Research Costs Form should be submitted to your institutional sift.*

*Supervisors successful in the internal sift will be required to complete the* [*full ARIES online submission*](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkNjNGfSlMOVFha_zZgV6WfpUNFAxUUY1STNKMTRSSzcwM1VQS0tXWUpXSC4u) *of their studentship proposal by 12:00, 16 September 2022.*



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| **School/Dept./Institute** |  | |
| **Primary Supervisor details**  (see [note 1](#Note1) for eligibility criteria) | Title, Name |  |
| Email address |  |
| **Project Title** ([see appendix 2](#Appendix2)) |  | |
| **Details of any additional funding including CASE**  *where appropriate* |  | |
| **Details of any collaborations**  *where appropriate* |  | |
| **Secondary Supervisor details**  (see [note 2](#Note2) for eligibility criteria) | Title, Name |  |
| Email address |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| **Tertiary Supervisor details**  (see [note 2](#Note2) for eligibility criteria) | Title, Name |  |
| Email address |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| **Other supervisory team members** (see [note 2](#Note2))  Please give details, including affiliations and email addresses. |  | |
| **Expertise of the Supervisor and Supervisory Team in the project area**  *Explain how the expertise of the Primary Supervisor will result in an excellent research environment for the student in the****specific area of the project****, and how the Supervisory team complement this.* | | |
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| **Project advertisement text (maximum 350 words)** ([see appendix 2](#Appendix2)) | |
| **Scientific background** *the wider context; why the project is important and timely*  **Research methodology** *what precisely will the student do? Where? How?*  **Training** *what opportunities will the student have? What skills will they gain*  **Person specification**  *include the desired degree subject(s) minimum 2:1 requirements for an MSc or first class degree will be removed).* *Please also note that particularly restrictive specifications will be relaxed (i.e. "must have experience in MATLAB" will be changed to "prior experience of programming is desirable). Please do not use abbreviations (e.g. ENV, MTH) and please do not request that the applicant is a "student" (i.e. say "we seek an enthusiastic individual", rather than "we seek an enthusiastic student")* | |
| **References for inclusion in Advert** | |
| ***At least two of these must be recent relevant papers authored (or co-authored) by the supervisory team.*** | |
| **1.** |  |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |
| **4.** |  |
| **5.** |  |

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| **Supplementary Project Description (maximum 500 words)** (see [note 3](#Note3)) | |
| **Please use this section to provide *additional information* about the project, not included in the proposal advertisement above.** *The two sections together* *will be scrutinised by the Sift Panels and Strategy Board. They should collectively provide a clear description of the research background, aims and objectives; the excellence of the research and how the student will benefit from this excellence; details of the role of the student, including their scope for independent development; and project-specific training and personal development opportunities. It is recommended that you refer to the guidance notes and sift criteria when completing this section (max 500 words, not including references).* | |
| **Supplementary References** | |
| **1.** |  |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |
| **4.** |  |
| **5.** |  |

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| **Fit to ARIES themes** | | |
| **Please indicate which ARIES theme(s) the project best fits, choosing one main theme and as many subthemes as seem appropriate** | | |
|  | **Main theme (X)** | **Rank order; 1 most relevant** |
| **1. Ecology & Biodiversity** |  |  |
| **2. Marine, Atmospheric & Climate Science** |  |  |
| **3. Geosciences, Resources & Environmental Risk** |  |  |
| **4. Environmental Genomics & Microbiology** |  |  |
| **5. Agri-Environments & Water** |  |  |

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| **Project contingency plan** |
| **Does the success of this project depend on data that are yet to be collected? Yes  No**  *If the proposal includes fieldwork or lab work with the purpose of gathering data of any sort then the answer to this question is yes.*  If yes, please describe the contingency plan should the collection fail or the data set not be fit for purpose. (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| **Are there any constraints on data collection that may limit application numbers?  Yes  No**  *This question is asking if there are any reasons people may feel unable to apply to your project due to the data collection component - for example is there a difficulty in providing access for wheelchair users?*  If yes, how will these constraints be mitigated? (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| **Does the success of this project depend on fieldwork?  Yes  No**  If yes, how will you ensure that any proposed fieldwork is carried out in a safe, inclusive and appropriate research environment?  *This question is asking you to consider the research environment you are providing or proposing via fieldwork. How can you ensure that any applicant will feel safe and included, particularly with reference to protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex)?* (Maximum 200 words.) |
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**Appendix 1: Guidance notes**

**Note 1 – Primary Supervisor eligibility**

The eligibility criteria for Primary Supervisors are that they:

* are employed by, and usually based at, an ARIES hosting partner institute or department
* have a track record of research aligned to the NERC remit as evidenced by submission of research grant applications in the last 5 years to UK Research Councils, European Commission and Research Council, other UK or overseas government agencies, or similar bodies (charities, industry, etc.), in these relevant areas
* have a peer-reviewed publication record of research in the NERC remit in international journals that would be deemed “internationally excellent” or “world leading” according to current REF criteria
* would normally be eligible to be a PhD Primary Supervisor according to their institute’s criteria for institutionally funded studentships
* have undertaken approved supervisory training within the last 3 years
* have a 100% record of formal progress reporting for the previous 12 months for all of their PGR students
* are in compliance with NERC and DTP requirements.

In addition:

* supervisors may only submit one project proposal per year where they are named as the Primary Supervisor, but there is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted each year in which they are named as a co-supervisor. Primary supervisors are permitted to apply for one additional studentship to be considered for joint funding with the BBSRC NRP or ESRC SeNSS DTPs
* Where an inexperienced primary supervisor is proposed (e.g. a new investigator), a more experienced supervisor will need to be nominated to the supervisory team.

**Note 2 – Supervisory teams**

Supervisory teams must comprise a Primary Supervisor and at least two more members. For PGRs hosted by non-HEI Partners, the second supervisor must be based at and employed by the HEI of registration. All PGRs should have access to at least two supervisors at the institute in which they are primarily located. For CASE and Collaborative awards, the external partners will provide a supervisor to the team.

**Note 3 – Project proposals**

Consider these questions:

* What is theproblem to be solved, and what are the objectives of the project/student?
* Why is this important, and why now?
* What will the student actually do?
* How will this lead to the student meeting their objectives?
* What training opportunities might the student have?
* If your project involves collaboration, why/how is this a strength?
* What are the (complementary) strengths of the members of the supervisory team?
* Is there an established research group that the student will be joining?
* How will the project/student produce new data?
* What are the risks involved in the project, and how are these to be mitigated?